

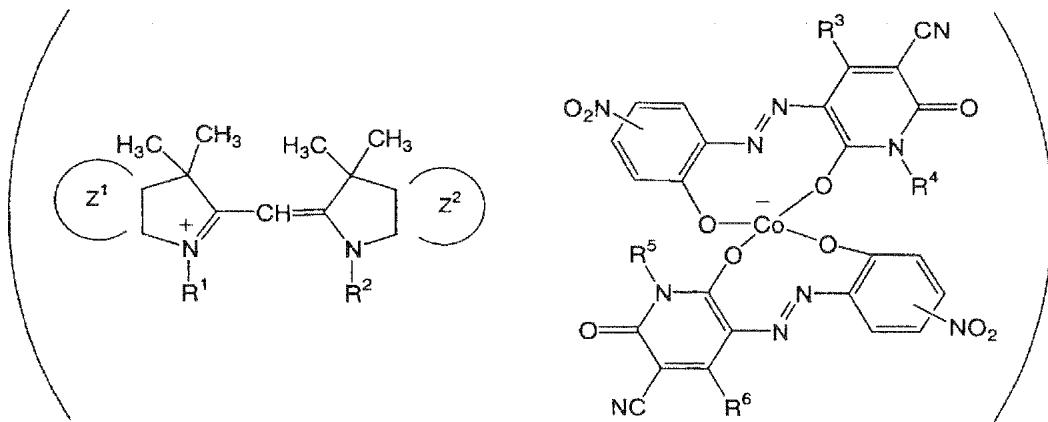
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cyanine dye which is represented by General Formula 1 and which exhibits a major absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than 400 nm in a solution and has a molar absorption coefficient ( $\epsilon$ ) of at least  $5 \times 10^4$  [.] ;

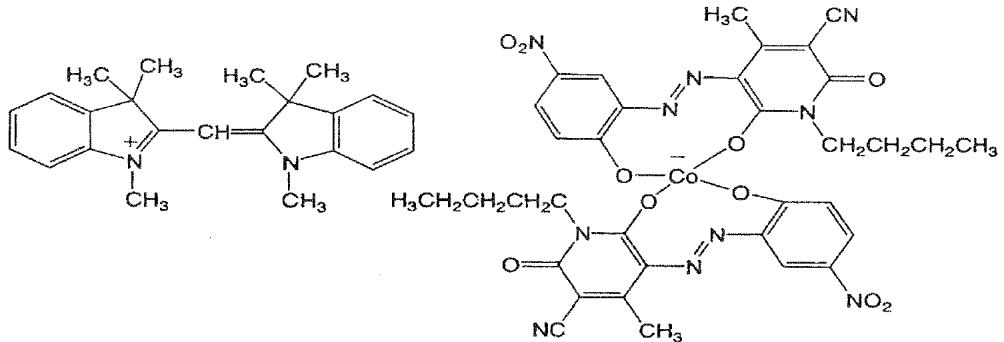
General Formula 1:



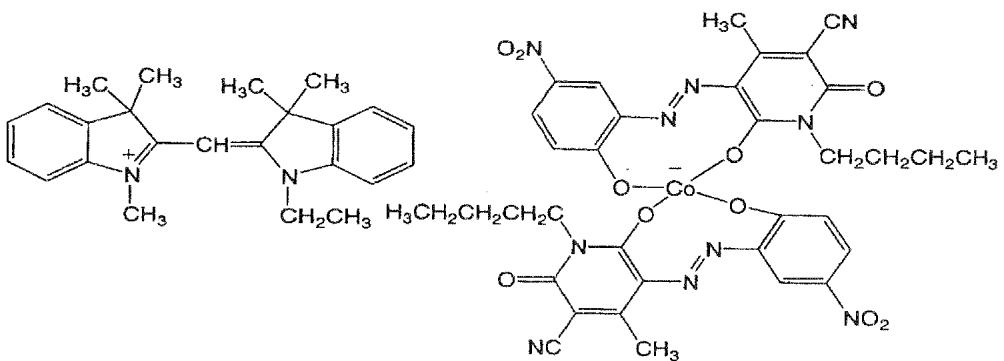
(In General wherein in Formula 1, Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> mean monocyclic or condensed heterocyclic aromatic rings which are the same or different from each other., and R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>6</sup> independently denote aliphatic hydrocarbon groups and their aliphatic hydrocarbon groups which may optionally bear a substituent.)

2. (New) The cyanine dye according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

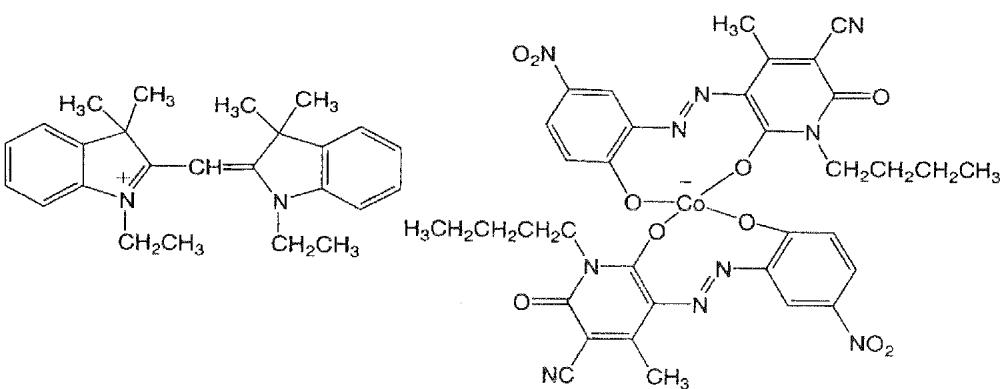
Chemical Formula 1:



Chemical Formula 2:

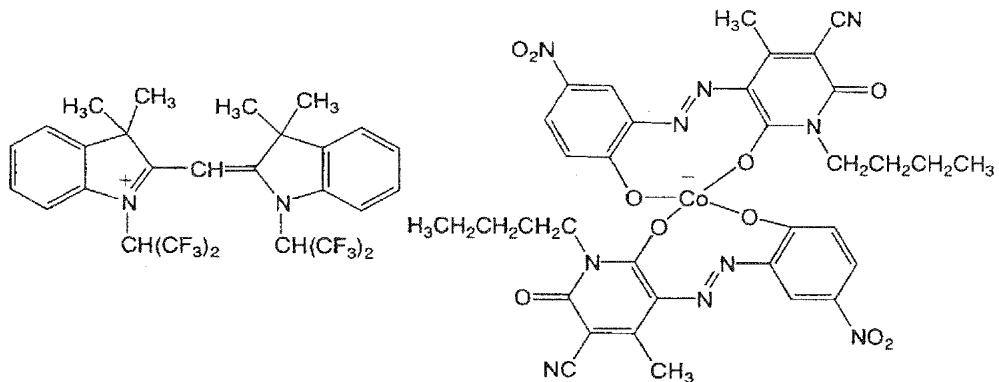


Chemical Formula 3:

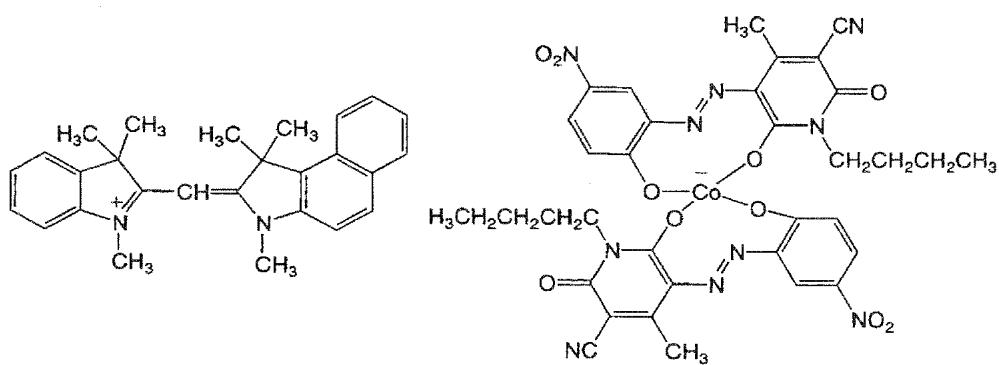


Appln. No. 10/590,895  
Amd. dated March 20, 2009  
Reply to Office Action of December 22, 2008

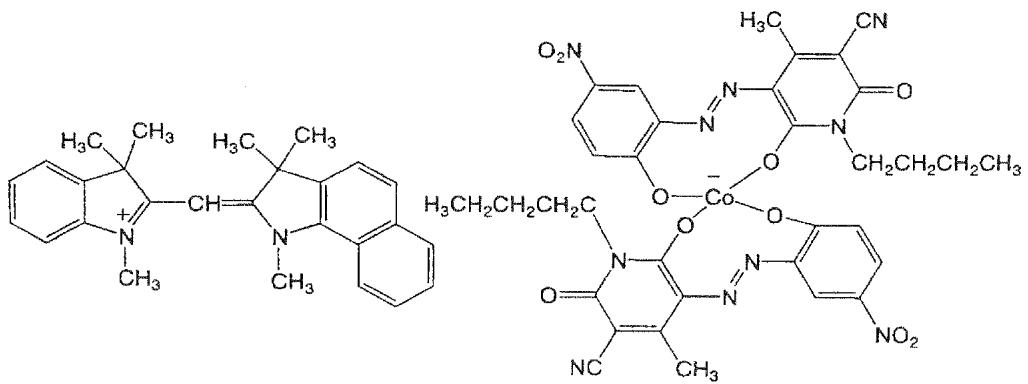
Chemical Formula 4 :



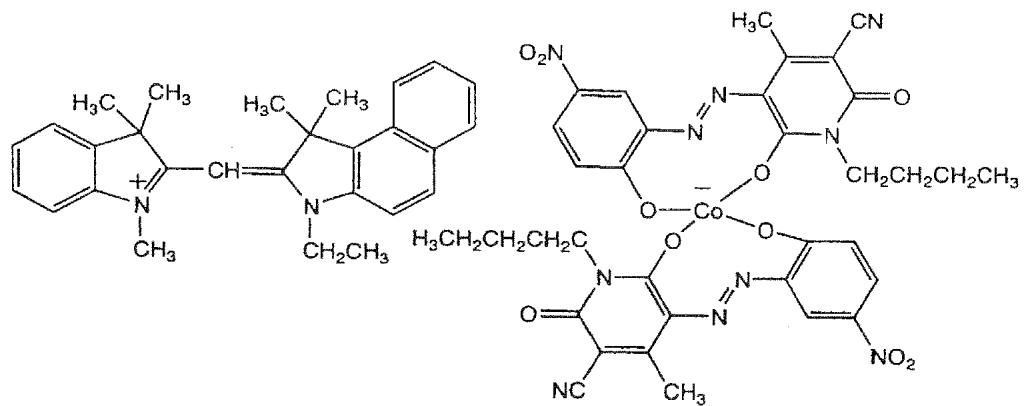
Chemical Formula 5 :



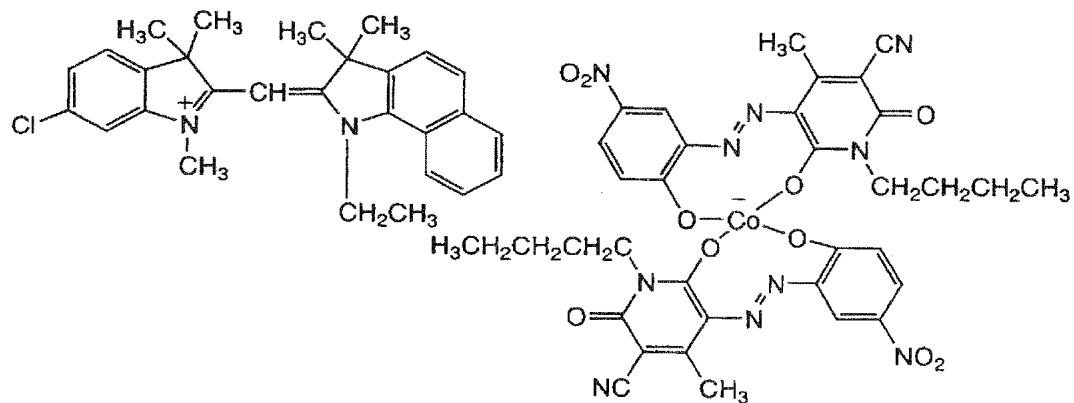
Chemical Formula 6 :



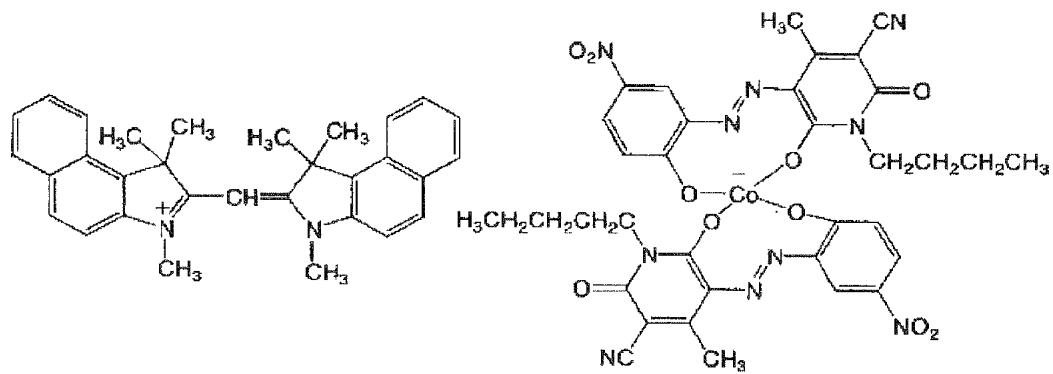
Chemical Formula 7:



Chemical Formula 8:

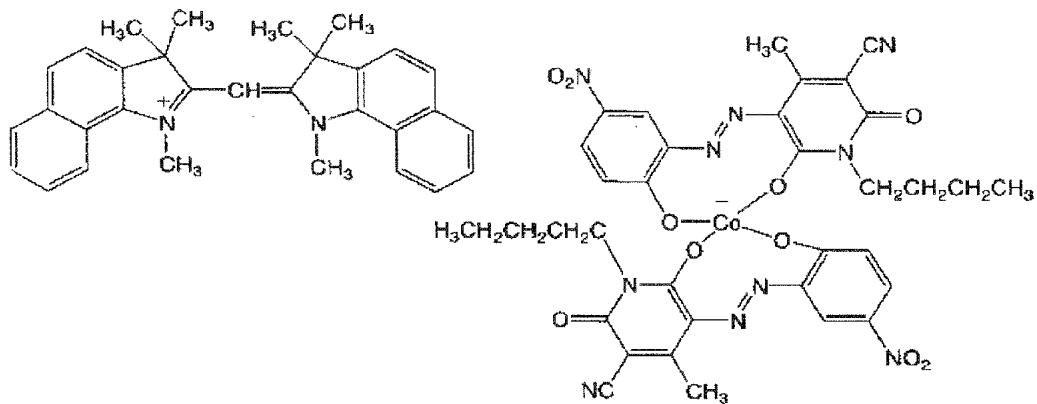


Chemical Formula 9:

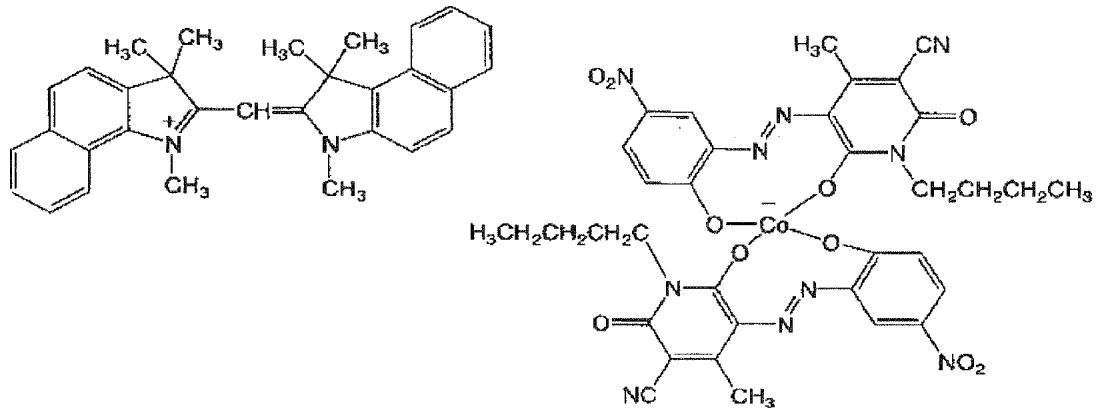


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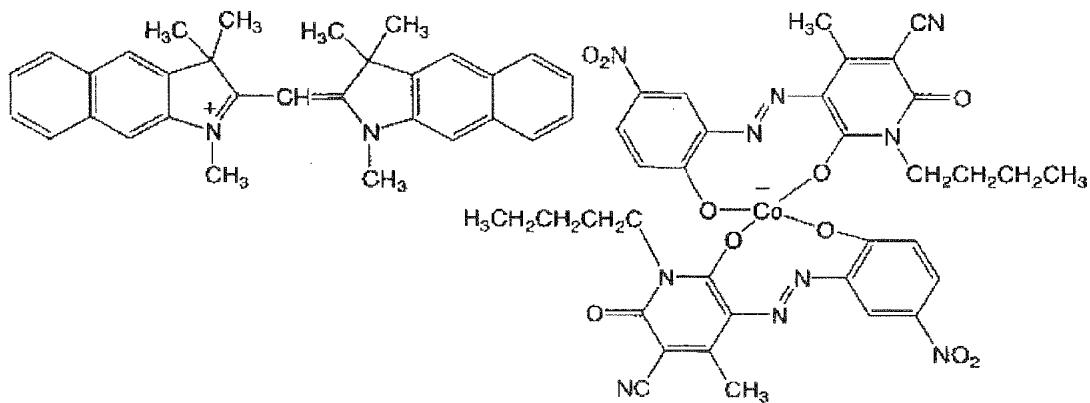
Chemical Formula 10:



Chemical Formula 11:

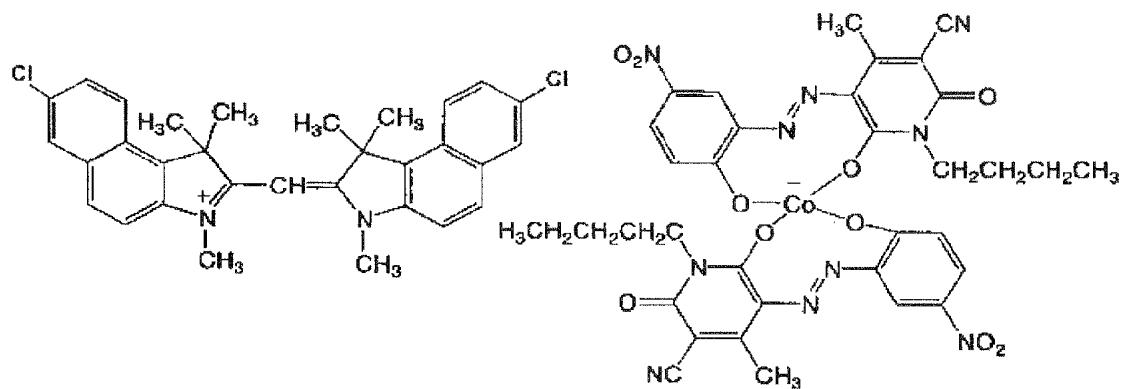


Chemical Formula 12:



and

Chemical Formula 13 :



3. (New) The cyanine dye according to claim 1  
wherein the absorption maximum is about 430 to 550 nm.